# IRAQ OPERATIONS

## *Resource Summary*

($ in thousands)

| Appropriations | FY 2011 Actual | FY 2012 Estimate | FY 2013 Request | Increase / Decrease |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Positions - Enduring | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Enduring Funds | 1,523,709 | 229,047 | 406,295 | 177,248 |
| Positions - OCO | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Overseas Contingency Operations Funds (1) | 0 | 3,229,455 | 2,257,828 | (971,627) |
| Total Funds | 1,523,709 | 3,458,502 | 2,664,123 | (794,379) |

(1) Details of the FY 2013 OCO request are addressed in the OCO chapter..

## *Program Description*

The U.S. Mission in Iraq remains committed to building a strategic partnership with the Government of Iraq, advancing U.S. economic and security interests and to realizing President Obama's goal of an Iraq that is sovereign, stable, democratic and self-reliant. As FY 2013 approaches, Iraq is poised to play a key role in the Middle East, given its potential economic wealth, political influence, and cultural clout. A secure, stable, and self-reliant Iraq also holds out the promise of a new model of multi-ethnic, multi-sectarian, representative government in the region. Conversely, renewed sectarian conflict or increased interference by malign regional actors seeking to fill a vacuum left by U.S. disengagement would pose a significant threat to U.S. influence in the region.

The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad is the foundation for all U.S. Government programs and efforts. Embassy personnel monitor and engage on national level issues, such as sectarian tensions, economic development, and international investment while working with the Government of Iraq as it builds strong, stable relationships with neighboring states and within the region.

Together with the Chief of Mission (COM) personnel at the Embassy in Baghdad, COM personnel at consulates in Erbil and Basrah, as well as those located in Kirkuk will engage across a wide spectrum of issues, and build long-term relationships with power centers outside the national capital. Consulate General Erbil is key to facilitating agreements between the federal government in Baghdad and the Kurdish Regional Government, and is instrumental to the preservation of a stable, unified Iraq. Consulate General Basrah serves Iraq's Shi'a heartland, which is also the home of 80 percent of Iraq's known oil and gas reserves. With Iraq's hydrocarbons representing about 70 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product and over 90 percent of Iraqi government revenue, development of these resources provides Iraq with its best long term opportunity to develop its economy, improve basic services, and invest in its own reconstruction. The United States' consulate in Kirkuk stands at the center of the internal boundary most likely to generate Arab-Kurd conflict that could threaten the country's stability, and provides a diplomatic platform for expanding security cooperation programs.

Amid a climate of regional uncertainty, the U.S. diplomatic presence in Iraq helps to ensure that potentially destabilizing grievances will be addressed, and that neighboring states need not interject themselves. Premature reductions in this engagement might galvanize regional actors to mobilize tribal, ethnic or sectarian counterparts in Iraq to advance their agendas.

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## *Justification of Request*

The enduring component of the FY 2013 request for Iraq Operations is $406.3 million. The request is largely driven by updated sustainment and security contract estimates. Requirements for the interim consulate operations category have decreased as a result of the change in the provincial outreach strategy since the submission of the FY 2012 President's Budget. The request level also assumes that ICASS implementation does not expand the number of agencies billed in FY 2012.

**Mission Operations and Logistics Support: $223,089,000**
The FY 2013 request reflects a shift in funding from the interim consulate operations category to the U.S. Mission operations category as a result of a revised provincial outreach strategy. This shift includes funding for salaries, benefits, training, and other administrative support services. The request also includes funding to support sustainment contracts for aviation equipment and other equipment transferred to the Department of State from the Department of Defense.

**Information Technology: $8,694,000**
The FY 2013 request supports anticipated bandwidth costs changes for FY 2013.

**Security and Overhead Cover: $118,237,000**
This security estimate is for the Bureau of Diplomatic Security contract costs, which includes support for static guards at Chief of Mission facilities in Baghdad, technical security systems, the maintenance of an armored vehicle fleet comparable to other large posts in the region, and specialized training for security officers assigned or traveling to Iraq. Due to increased in-processing responsibilities the request includes the processing of security clearances and public trust determinations for contractor employees assigned to Iraq, polygraph support and efforts to monitor threats directed at the private sector in Iraq.

**Interim Consulate Operations: $56,275,000**
The FY 2013 request is a result of shifting costs for salaries, benefits, training, and other administrative support services from the provincial locations to "Mission Operations and Logistics Support" in Baghdad as part of the revised provincial outreach strategy consolidation. The request continues to support operational requirements of the interim consulates including salaries and benefits of consulate staff, operations and maintenance, as well as basic life support.